

*concl AS*

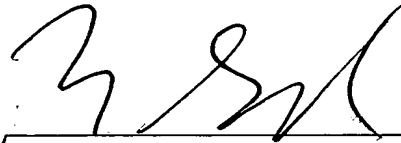
23. (new) The generator according to claim 4, wherein the azide is sodium azide.

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**REMARKS**

The above amendments were made to place the application into proper United States Patent Format.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Marked-up Amended Claims  
Preliminary Amendment filed March 27, 2002

1. (amended) ~~Gas~~ A gas generator comprising at least one first body, comprising means for the generation of gas and one or more reaction products, and at least one spatially separated second body, comprising means for the generation of a neutralisation agent, wherein means are present for passing said neutralization agent through the said first body, to neutralize one ~~ore~~ or more reaction products ~~—such as slag—~~ from the generation of gas in the said first body, and wherein means are present for operating the generation of a neutralisation agent in the second body at a spatial interval and optionally a temporal interval from the generation of gas in the first body.

2. (amended) ~~Gas~~ The gas generator according to claim 1, wherein the said means for generating a gas comprise components that generate nitrogen, oxygen, hydrogen or combinations thereof.

3. (amended) ~~Gas~~ The gas generator according to claim 2, wherein the means in the first body comprise a gas-penetrable solid material comprising a gas source, cementing agent and optionally a heat absorbing mixture, wherein the solid material has a porosity of 35-60 wt.%.

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4. (amended) Gas ~~The gas~~ generator according to claim 1-3, wherein said first body comprises means for generating nitrogen, preferably an azide, more preferably sodium azide.

5. (amended) Gas ~~The gas~~ generator according to claim 1-4, wherein the reaction products comprise slag containing sodium.

6. (amended) Gas ~~The gas~~ generator according to ~~any of the~~ ~~claims 1-5~~ claim 1, wherein the second body contains a gas source and a neutralising agent.

7. (amended) Gas ~~The gas~~ generator according to ~~any of the~~ ~~claims 1-6~~ claim 1, wherein the neutralisation agent is sulphur.

8. (amended) Gas ~~The gas~~ generator according to ~~any of the~~ ~~claims 1-7~~ claim 1, wherein the combined amounts of the gas, preferably nitrogen sources in the first and second body comprises 50-80 wt.% drawn on the total weight of the gas generator and the amount of neutralisation agent in the second body comprises 47-90 wt.% of neutralisation agent, drawn on the weight of the second body.

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9. (amended) ~~Gas~~ The gas generator according to ~~any of the~~  
~~claims 1-8~~ claim 1, wherein the second body is between 17 and 35  
wt.% drawn on the total weight of the gas generator.

10. (amended) ~~Gas~~ The gas generator according to ~~any of the~~  
~~claims 1-9~~ claim 1, wherein the second body contains 10 to 53  
wt.% of the nitrogen source and 47 to 90 wt.% of the  
neutralisation agent.

11. (amended) ~~Gas~~ The gas generator according to ~~any of the~~  
~~claims 1-10~~ claim 1, wherein the generated gases are cooled by a  
heat absorbing material.

12. (amended) ~~Gas~~ The gas generator according to ~~any of the~~  
~~claims 1-11~~ claim 1, whereby the heat absorbing material is  
included in the first body.

13. (amended) ~~Gas~~ The gas generator according to claim 1-  
12, wherein downstream from the first body means are present for  
cooling and/or filtering the gases.

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14. (amended) Gas—The gas generator according to claim 1—  
13, wherein said means also comprise neutralising agents for  
contaminants entrained in the gas.

15. (amended) Gas—The gas generator according to claim 1—  
14, wherein the said first and second bodies are contained  
within one container, said container having at least one outlet  
for generated gas.

16. (amended) Process—A process for the generation of  
gases, ~~preferably nitrogen~~, comprising the steps of:

decomposition of a gas-penetrable porous solid material in  
a first body, whereby gas and other reaction products are  
generated at a decomposition front;

passing the gas through said porous solid material;

generating a neutralisation agent in a second body, wherein  
the second body is spatially separated from the first body;

passing the neutralisation agent through said porous solid  
material;

neutralising the said other reaction products in the first  
body by reaction with the neutralisation agent;

maintaining a temporal and/or spatial interval between the  
decomposition front of the first body and a neutralisation front

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obtained by passing the neutralisation agent from the second body into the first body.

17. (amended) Process ~~The process~~ according to claim 16, wherein the generated gases are cooled by passing the gases through the porous solid material in the same direction as the reaction front is moving.

18. (amended) Process ~~The process~~ according to ~~claims 16 or 17~~ claim 16, wherein heat is absorbed in the porous body, which heat is formed in the decomposition of the gas-penetrable porous solid material.

19. (amended) Process ~~The process~~ according to ~~claims 11-13~~ claim 11, wherein the amounts of heat formed and absorbed are such that the generated gas is cooled to a temperature below 150°C.

20. (amended) Process ~~The process~~ according to claim 17-19, wherein the heat absorbed in the porous solid material maintains the temperature necessary for decomposition of the gas-penetrable porous solid material.

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21. (amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to claim 16-20,  
wherein the generated gases are passed through a filter and/or  
cooling means, downstream from the generation of the gases, said  
filter and/or cooling means optionally containing further  
neutralisation means.

22. (new) The generator according to claim 4, wherein the means  
for generating nitrogen is azide.

23. (new) The generator according to claim 4, wherein the azide  
is sodium azide.